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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/728,956

12/08/2003

Norikazu Niimi

118002

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08/17/2007

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EXAMINER

MAI, NGOCLAN THI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1742

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-3, filed 2/8/07, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-2 under 102(b) and 15-16 and 24 under 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,403,510.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 1-3, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,403,510.

'510 teaches a method comprising the step of sintering a mixture comprising a source compound for yttrium, a source compound for aluminum, and aluminum nitride to produce a sintered body comprising yttrium-aluminum garnet. See col. 3, lines 28-42 and col. 4, l. 53-55.

Regarding to claim 2, '510 teaches yttria and alumina as the source compounds for yttrium and aluminum, respectively. See col. 3, l. 35 and l. 39. '510 also teaches the claimed Y/Al ratio. See col. 4, l. 56-57.

As for claim 10, '510 teaches forming a shape body of the source compounds for yttrium, aluminum, and aluminum nitride and dewaxing at temperature at 800 C before sintering. See col. 8, l. 33-44.

3. Claims 4 - 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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4. Claim 15-24 are allowed.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoclan T. Mai whose telephone number is (571) 272-1246.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

n.m.


ROY KING
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700